

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 08777 021557Z

ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /016 W

-----033581 031020Z /12-R

R 021400Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9692

UNCLAS ANKARA 8777

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: XX, US

SUBJECT: CURRENT FOREIGN RELATIONS

REF: STATE 282272

1. IT IS CLEAR TO ME THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT YET HIT ON THE RIGHT FORMULA TO KEEP ITS MISSIONS OVERSEAS WELL INFORMED ON U.S. VIEWS AND DEVELOPMENTS ON BROADRANGE FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES. CURRENT FOREIGN RELATIONS, LIKE ITS PRINTED PREDECESSOR, HAS BECOME ROUTINIZED AND REPORTORIAL, IN ADDITION TO HAVING A "SHOW AND TELL" QUALITY THAT COMES FROM DIVIDING SPACE UP AMONG BUREAUS. ALL-IN-ALL IT DOES NOT ACHIEVE THE QUALITY OR COVERAGE OF THE CIA CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY REVIEW, WITH ITS UNION OF FACTUAL SUMMARIES AND IN-DEPTH ARTICLES ALTHOUGH THE LATTER, BY THE TIME IT GETS TO MANY POSTS, IS COLD. HOWEVER, I AM LOATHE TO RECOMMEND ABOLITION OF THE TELEGRAPHIC CRF, EVEN THOUGH ITS UTILITY IS MARGINAL, SINCE THIS WOULD DEPRIVE THOSE OF US ABROAD OF ONE OPTION FOR KEEPING INFORMED ON A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS, AS I BELIEVE WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO DO.

2. I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST THAT WHAT WOULD BE OF MAXIMUM UTILITY TO US OVERSEAS WOULD BE A WEEKLY ANALYTICAL PIECE ON A SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN POLICY ISSUE (E.G. SALT, MIDDLE EAST, NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, HORN OF AFRICA, CYPRUS, ETC.) THAT WOULD COMBINE AN UP-DATE OF THE FACTUAL
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STATUS AND SOME ANALYTICAL TREATMENT OF US INTERESTS, OBJECTIVES, THE NATURE OF INTERNAL POLICY DISAGREEMENTS, POLICY OPTIONS AVAILABLE, ETC. THIS WOULD REQUIRE A VERY SPECIAL TALENT TO PRODUCE, INCLUDING PARTICULARLY ONE FOR EXPLAINING COMPLEX PROBLEMS TO THOSE WHO DO NOT FOLLOW A SUBJECT CLOSELY, ALONG WITH A WILLINGNESS TO SPEAK TO COLLEAGUES CANDIDLY AND NOT AS IF THEY WERE MEMBERS OF THE

PRESS. I WOULD THINK A SMALL TEAM OF FOUR OR FIVE
SPECIALLY SELECTED OFFICERS OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO DO THIS KIND
OF A JOB. IT WOULD, ON BALANCE, BE MORE USEFUL THAN THE
CONTINUING STRUGGLE WITH THE IDENTITY PROBLEM OF CFR.
ANYWAY, IT MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE TO TRY IT FOR A WHILE. THE
STATE DEPARTMENT, LIKE OTHER INSTITUTIONS, NEEDS PERIODIC
CULTURAL REVOLUTIONS.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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From: ANKARA
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